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26 Sept 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Approved For Release 2003/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T00975A006600210001-5

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***Cuba-USSR:** The Cuban port facility to be built under a contract signed on 25 September by Fidel Castro and Soviet Fisheries Minister Ishkov will be the first base for Soviet fishing fleets to be set up outside the bloc.

The Soviet North Atlantic fishing fleet, which is to use the base, consists of approximately 500 trawlers. Its operations now center chiefly around the Grand Banks but have been expanding southwards. Trawlers converted for oceanographic research and signal intelligence collection often mingle with the fishing fleet.

Moscow probably also sees this action as a further opportunity to demonstrate the USSR's right to establish an economic presence in Cuba and to carry on peaceful economic activities without outside interference. The USSR probably calculates that the US would find difficulty in representing this agreement as a threat to the security of the US or that of its Latin American allies.

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Cuba-OAS: [A number of Latin American governments which feel directly threatened by developments in Cuba may attempt to reach a common position on the Cuban problem prior to the informal meetings of American foreign ministers scheduled to begin in Washington on 2 October.]

[Panamanian Finance Minister Arias told US Ambassador Farland on 22 September that he has President Chiari's approval for promoting a meeting of representatives of ten Central American and Caribbean area governments before the scheduled Washington meetings. Arias' plan is that the ten countries issue a "forceful declaration" of solidarity against the Cuban-Communist threat. They would also be asked to consider forming a regional military alliance for "defensive as well as offensive purposes, if such need arises."]

[The ten-country "alliance" envisaged would presumably exclude Mexico, but would include Venezuela, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti.]

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Yugoslavia-USSR: The USSR is apparently exploring the possibility of carrying the rapprochement with Yugoslavia beyond the governmental level during the current visit of Soviet President Brezhnev to Belgrade.

The presence in the Soviet governmental delegation of Yuri Andropov, the Soviet party's expert on relations with ruling Communist parties, suggests that discussions may touch upon ways of smoothing over existing ideological differences. Vice President Aleksander Rankovic, Tito's heir apparent in the Yugoslav party, is escorting the Soviet delegation.

Andropov's presence in Belgrade will further irritate the Chinese Communists and Albanians who have already voiced extreme anti-Yugoslav positions in anticipation of the Brezhnev visit. The more conservative leaders of the East European satellites will also be disturbed by the implications of Andropov's visit. [redacted]

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Kenya: Jomo Kenyatta, president of Kenya's leading African nationalist party, is expanding his ties with Moscow.

During the past week at least 42 Kenyan students under Kenyatta's auspices were scheduled to leave by air for the USSR. An additional group is expected to depart about 30 September.

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Nigeria: Violence may break out in the Western Region of Nigeria in the wake of the federal government's attempts to destroy the Action Group (AG). The AG is the region's major political party and the principal opposition in the national parliament.

Chief Awolowo, AG leader, has been placed under house arrest following the discovery of arms cached in the homes of party members. Although no formal charges have been made against Awolowo or other AG leaders, the party's legal adviser has resigned and its vice president has fled the country.

Awolowo has relied on legal means to oppose the federal government, but some of his lieutenants apparently have smuggled arms into the country, probably from Ghana.

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Algeria: [Ben Bella may be sowing the seeds of serious instability within the government he will form this week.]

[He reportedly hopes to neutralize his opposition by including its leaders in his government, thus requiring them to share responsibility for the government's performance. The records of the individuals he is considering, however, suggest that, even if they join the government, they are likely to pursue their attacks on the premier and frustrate his efforts to re-establish order.]

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France-Algeria: [More than 3,000 Europeans have disappeared in Algeria since early July as victims of Algerian reprisals,]

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[For political reasons, the French Government has been reluctant to reveal this. Official announcements acknowledge less than 1,000 disappearances. The wide publicity Paris gave the release earlier this month of a few dozen prisoners of the Algerian Liberation Front was probably intended to encourage more of the 600,000 to 700,000 repatriates in France to return to Algeria.]

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[The reprisals and the refugee problem may become bitter political issues in France in the October referendum campaign and in the National Assembly elections expected next spring.]

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France: [France plans to conduct several atomic tests in the Sahara from late October through early December,] This will end the atomic test series in the Sahara. Future tests, which will probably not begin before mid-1963, will be conducted in the Pacific.

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